

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for synchronizing transactions comprising:

specifying ~~a particular level of lag, said particular level of lag being a specified~~  
an adjustable synchronicity setting indicative of an acceptable amount of lag for a second  
computing entity to lag behind a first computing entity in executing commands;

~~executing a series of commands at a first computing entity;~~

controlling a level of lag between the computing entities by ~~relaying the series~~  
~~of executing commands to a second at the first~~ computing entity until said synchronicity setting  
is reached; ~~and~~

relaying the commands executed at the first computing entity to the second  
computing entity for the second computing entity to execute; and

postponing executing additional commands at the first computing entity and  
postponing relaying the additional commands to the second computing entity while ~~after~~ said  
synchronicity setting is reached, ~~wherein~~ until the second computing entity has executed at  
least some of the relayed commands and lags behind the first computing entity by an amount  
of lag that is no greater than said specified synchronicity setting.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the first computing entity  
is a computer peripheral.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer peripheral  
is a storage system.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the first computing entity  
is a computer.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the first computing entity is a computer program.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of commands executed.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of time.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of data.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of devices with outstanding commands to execute.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the second computing entity is a computer peripheral.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10, wherein the computer peripheral is a storage system.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the second computing entity is a computer.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the second computing entity is a computer program.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the series of commands is for a peer-to-peer remote copy operation.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium comprising functional descriptive data that, when executed by a computer, enables the computer to perform acts including:

~~specifying a particular level of lag, said particular level of lag being a specified~~  
an adjustable synchronicity setting indicative of an acceptable amount of lag for a second  
computing entity to lag behind a first computing entity in executing commands;

~~executing a series of commands at a first computing entity;~~

controlling a level of lag between the computing entities by ~~relaying the series~~  
~~of executing~~ commands ~~to a second~~ at the first computing entity until said synchronicity setting is reached; and

relaying the commands executed at the first computing entity to the second  
computing entity for the second computing entity to execute; and

postponing executing additional commands at the first computing entity and  
postponing relaying the additional commands to the second computing entity while ~~after~~ said synchronicity setting is reached, ~~wherein~~ until the second computing entity has executed at  
least some of the relayed commands and lags behind the first computing entity by an amount of lag that is no greater than said specified synchronicity setting.

16. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first computing entity is a computer peripheral.

17. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the computer peripheral is a storage system.

18. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first computing entity is the computer.

19. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first computing entity is a computer program.

20. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of commands executed.

21. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of time.

22. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of data.

23. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of devices with outstanding commands to execute.

24. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the second computing entity is a computer peripheral.

25. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the computer peripheral is a storage system.

26. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the second computing entity is a computer.

27. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the second computing entity is a computer program.

28. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the series of commands is for a peer-to-peer remote copy operation.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium comprising functional descriptive data that, when executed by a computer, enables the computer to perform acts including:

~~specifying a particular level of lag, said particular level of lag being a specified~~  
an adjustable synchronicity setting indicative of an acceptable amount of lag for a second storage system to lag behind a first storage system in copying data;

~~copying extents of data from a host to a first storage system pursuant to instructions from the host;~~

controlling a level of lag between the storage systems by ~~relaying the instructions to a second~~ copying data from a host to the first storage system until said synchronicity setting is reached; ~~and~~

relaying the data copied to the first storage system to the second storage system for the second storage system to copy; and

postponing copying additional data from the host to the first storage system and postponing relaying the additional commands data to the second storage system while after said synchronicity setting is reached, ~~wherein~~ until the second storage system has copied at least some of the relayed data and lags behind the first storage system in copying ~~the extents of data~~ by an amount of lag that is no greater than said specified synchronicity setting.

30. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of instructions executed.

31. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of time.

32. (ORIGINAL) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of data.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data processing system comprising:

a processing unit including at least one processor;  
memory; and  
a set of instructions within the memory,  
wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform acts  
including:

~~specifying a particular level of lag, said particular level of lag being a specified~~  
an adjustable synchronicity setting indicative of an acceptable amount of lag for a computing  
entity to lag behind the data processing system in executing commands;

~~executing a series of commands;~~

~~controlling a level of lag between computing entities by relaying the series of~~  
executing commands to a second computing entity at the data processing system until said  
synchronicity setting is reached; and

relaying the commands executed at the data processing system to the computing  
entity for the computing entity to execute; and

postponing executing additional commands at the data processing system and  
postponing relaying the additional commands to the computing entity while after said  
synchronicity setting is reached, ~~wherein until~~ the ~~second~~ computing entity has executed at  
least some of the relayed commands and lags behind the data processing system by an amount  
of lag that is no greater than said specified synchronicity setting.

34. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the  
amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of commands  
executed.

35. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the  
amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of time.

36. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the  
amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as amounts of data.

37. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the amount of lag and the specified synchronicity setting are measured as numbers of devices with outstanding commands to execute.

38. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the second computing entity is a computer peripheral.

39. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 38, wherein the computer peripheral is a storage system.

40. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the second computing entity is a computer.

41. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the second computing entity is a computer program.

42. (ORIGINAL) The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the series of commands is for a peer-to-peer remote copy operation.